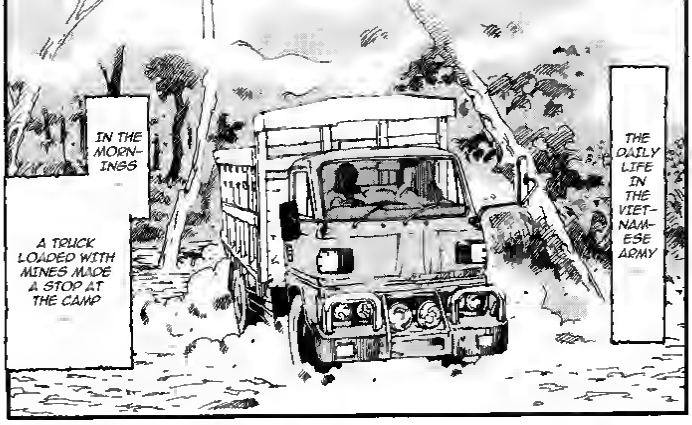
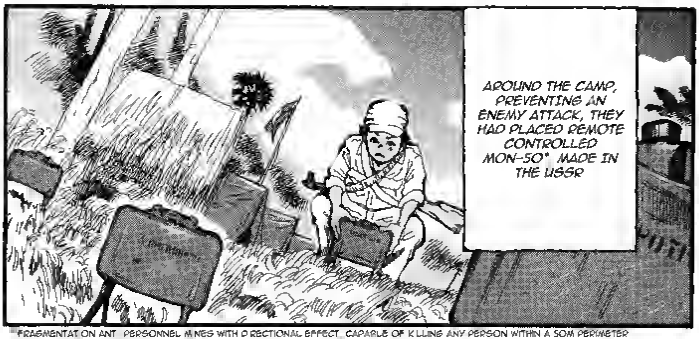
CHAPTER 4: CABLE WARFARE


THE DAILY LIFE IN THE VIET-NAM-ESE ARMY
IN THE MORN-INGS
A TRUCK LOADED WITH MINES MADE A STOP AT THE CAMP

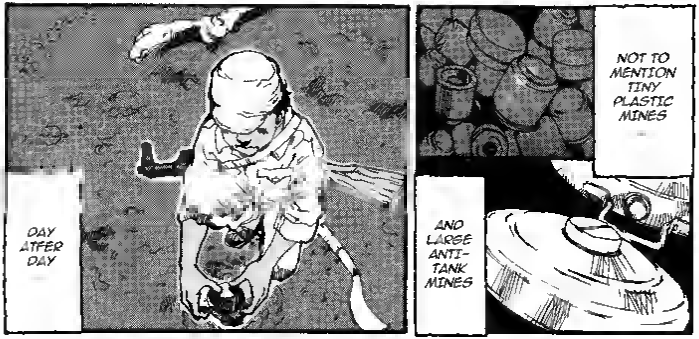
HOP!
TO LEAVE THEM A FEW CRATES

AKI RA AND HIS COMRADES FROM THE MINES BRIGADE

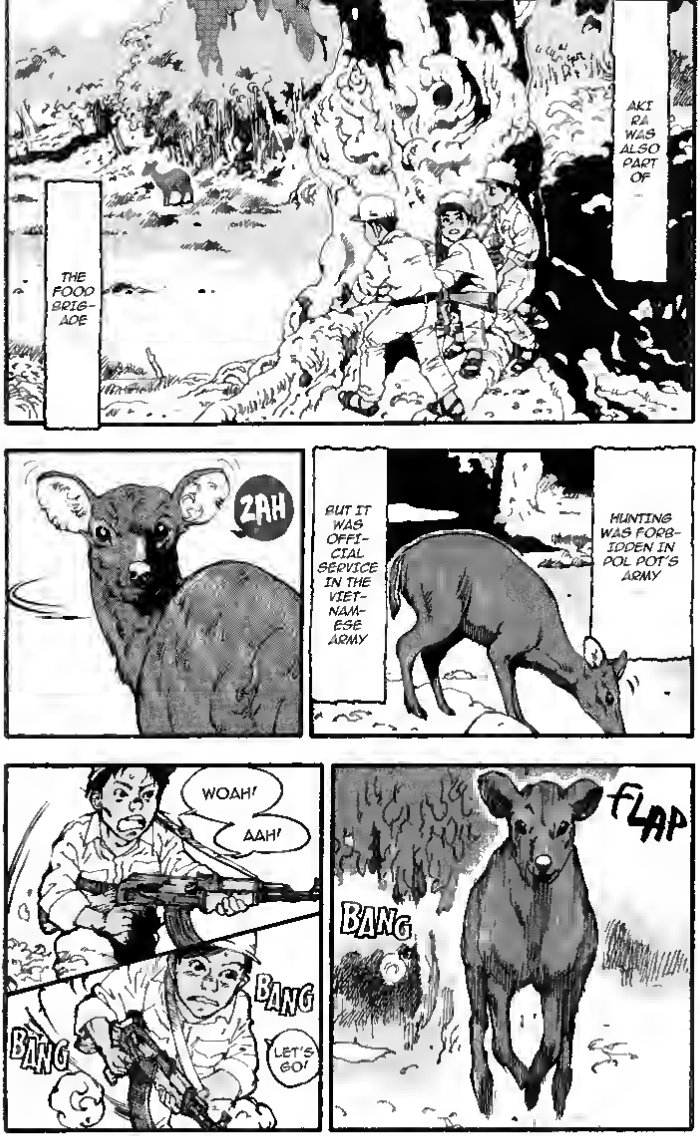
HAD TO PLACE THEM IN DESIG-NATED SPOTS



*FRAGMENTATION ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES WITH DIRECTIONAL EFFECT. CAPABLE OF KILLING ANY PERSON WITHIN A 50M PERIMETER THEY'RE SET ON THE GROUND, NOT BURIED

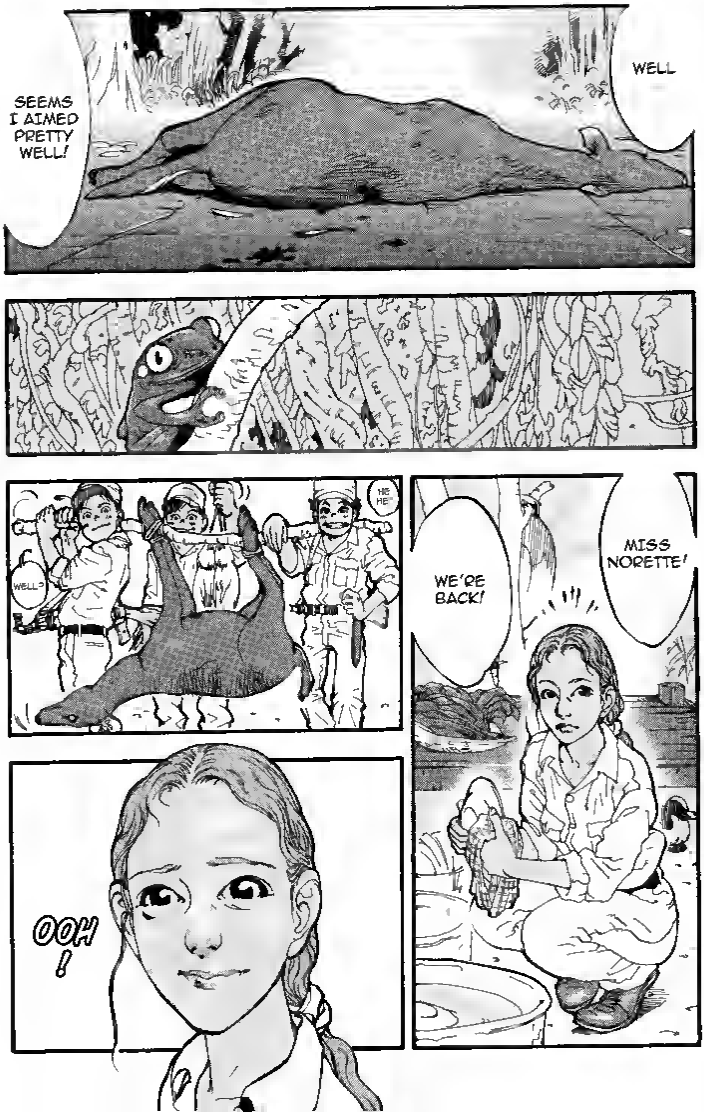


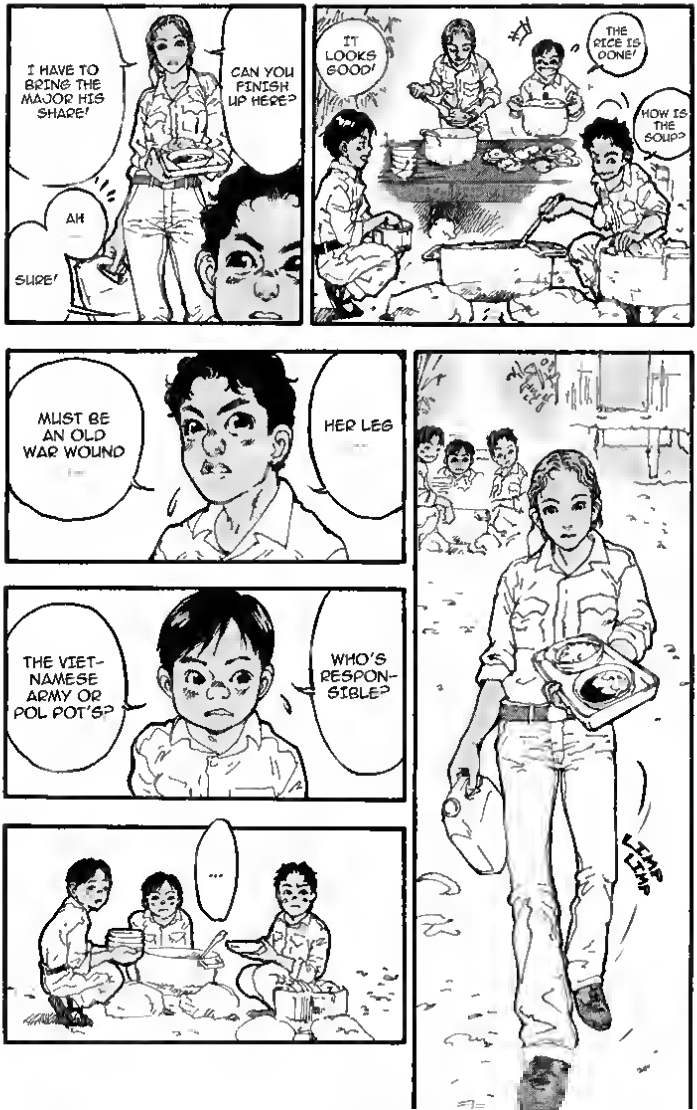
AKI RA! ARE YOU DONE?
LET'S GO BACK!
YES, I'M COMING
AND SO, NUMEROUS ZONES
FROM NOW ON ...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO SWIMMING THROUGH THIS PATH ...
BECAME MINEFIELDS

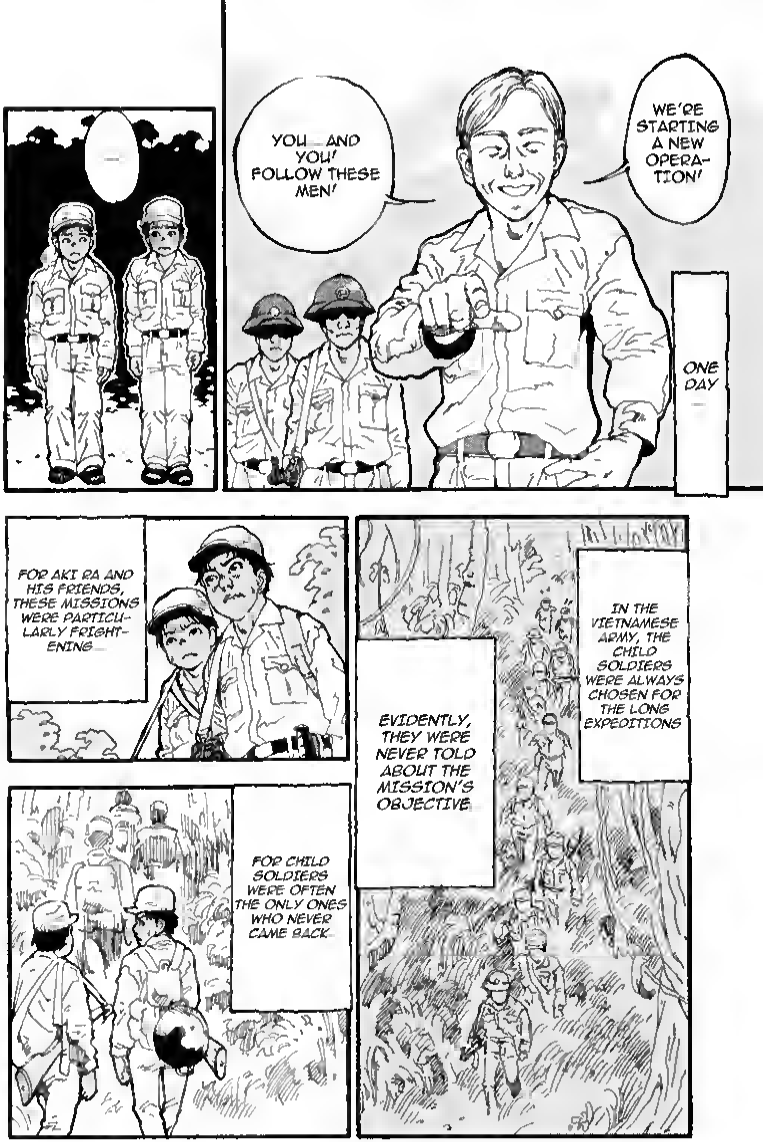

AKI RA WAS ALSO PART OF ...
THE FOOD BRIGADE
ZAH
BUT IT WAS OFFICIAL SERVICE IN THE VIETNAMESE ARMY
HUNTING WAS FORBIDDEN IN POL POT'S ARMY
WOAH!
AAH!
BANG
BANG
LET'S GO!
FLAP
BANG

IT'S COMING YOUR WAY!
BANG
FRR FRR...
AKIRA!
ALRIGHT
SSS...
HUH!?
A LITTLE MORE
FROU FROU
FRR FRR...
COME CLOSER
DAH
!!
WHA.
WHAT THE
DID IT NOTICE ME?

ZAH
WOAH!
AKI RA!
DID YOU HIT IT?
BAM
TA RA TA TA
GNN!


SEEMS I AIMED PRETTY WELL!
WELL
HE HE!
WELL?
WE'RE BACK!
MISS NORETTE!
OOH!


I HAVE TO BRING THE MAJOR HIS SHARE!
CAN YOU FINISH UP HERE?
AH
SURE!
IT LOOKS GOOD!
THE RICE IS DONE!
HOW IS THE SOUP?
MUST BE AN OLD WAR WOUND
HER LEG
THE VIET-NAMESE ARMY OR POL POT'S?
WHO'S RESPON-SIBLE?
...
LIMP LIMP


ONE DAY...
WE'RE STARTING A NEW OPERATION!
YOU...AND YOU! FOLLOW THESE MEN!
IN THE VIETNAMESE ARMY, THE CHILD SOLDIERS WERE ALWAYS CHOSEN FOR THE LONG EXPEDITIONS
EVIDENTLY, THEY WERE NEVER TOLD ABOUT THE MISSION'S OBJECTIVE.
FOR CHILD SOLDIERS WERE OFTEN THE ONLY ONES WHO NEVER CAME BACK...
FOR AKI RA AND HIS FRIENDS, THESE MISSIONS WERE PARTICULARLY FRIGHTENING...

SCHLAG
AFTER LEAVING TRAPS ALL AROUND THE CAMP, IN CASE OF A NIGHT ATTACK...
SET THE CAMP!
YES SIR!
WE'RE CAMPING HERE TODAY!
THEY HAD TO FIND A PREY FOR THE EVENING MEAL
SSS...
CRISH CRISH
OH

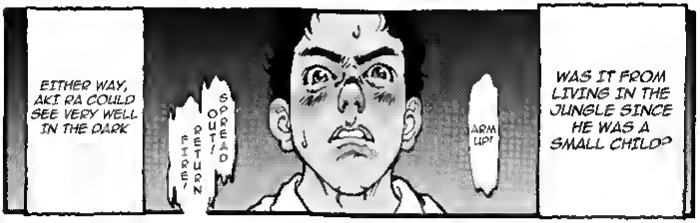
GGH
WELL DONE AKI RA!
GNN
KIII
CRISH CRISH CRISH
NO!
NOT THIS WAY!
THERE!
A GOOD STEW FOR FIVE PEOPLE!
OONE YET?
PSHH
BLUP BLUP BLUP
OH!

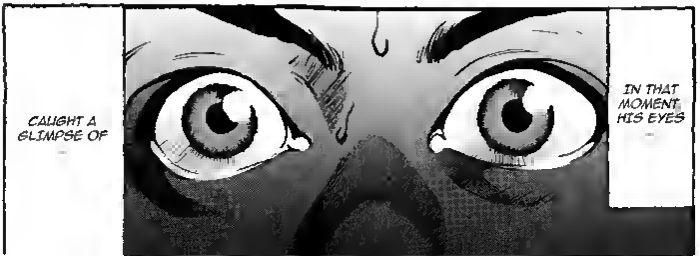
BAANG
!!

TARATA TARATA

WOAH!
ARM UP!
FSHH
PSHHHHH

SOMETHING TRIGGERED A TRAP!
THE ENE-MY?


EITHER WAY, AKI RA COULD SEE VERY WELL IN THE DARK
FIRE! RETURN SPREAD OUT!
ARM UP!
WAS IT FROM LIVING IN THE JUNGLE SINCE HE WAS A SMALL CHILD?


CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF
IN THAT MOMENT, HIS EYES

POL POT'S SOLDIERS WERE ATTACKING
BLACK UNIFORMS, JUST LIKE THEY USED TO WEAR
tarata tata
UGH!
BLOM
RETREAT!
RETREAT!
BONG

DA DA DA DA
DA
DA DA DA DA

FROM HERE ON YOU'RE FIRST IN LINE!
GO ON AHEAD!

HEY!
YOU! COME HERE!

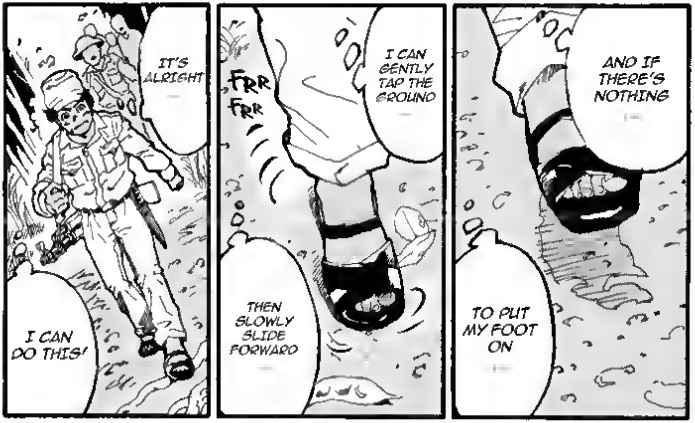
THE SUN IS RISING

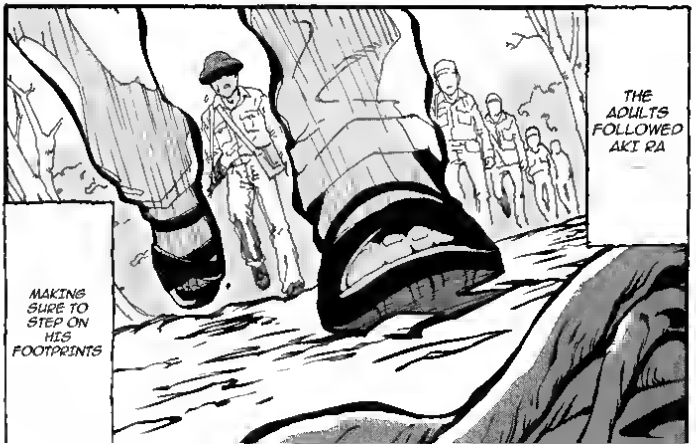
IN FRONT OF THE MINE-FIELDS
THAT HE AND HIS COMRADES HAD PREP-ARED A FEW DAYS BEFORE

BUT
THEY WERE

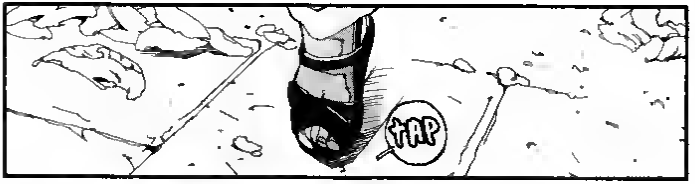
AK! PA
...
GO ON!
THE REASON WHY CHILD SOLDIERS WERE BEING INTEGRATED INTO THESE TEAMS WAS FINALLY MADE CLEAR
BO DOM
BO DOM
BO DOM
BO DOM
BODOM
REFUSING MEANT DEATH
HE HAD TO MOVE FORWARD
IF I'M CAREFUL AND THINK BEFORE I STEP I'LL GET THROUGH IT
IT'LL BE OK

AND OLD FOOTPRINTS
TREE ROOTS AS WELL
I CAN STEP ON GRASS THAT'S BEEN HERE A LONG TIME


IT'S ALRIGHT
I CAN DO THIS!
FRR FRR
I CAN GENTLY TAP THE GROUND
THEN SLOWLY SLIDE FORWARD
AND IF THERE'S NOTHING
TO PUT MY FOOT ON

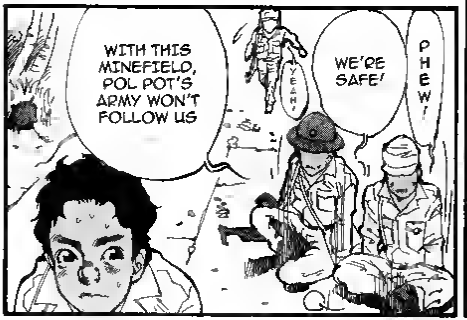

THE ADULTS FOLLOWED AKI RA
MAKING SURE TO STEP ON HIS FOOTPRINTS

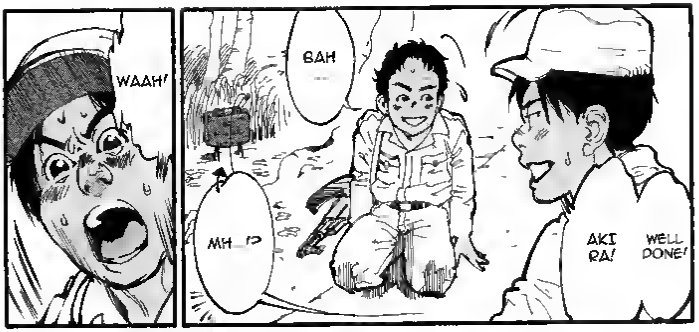
BLA
AM
!!
CAP-
TAIN!
NOT
HERE!
CAP-
TAIN
KOK

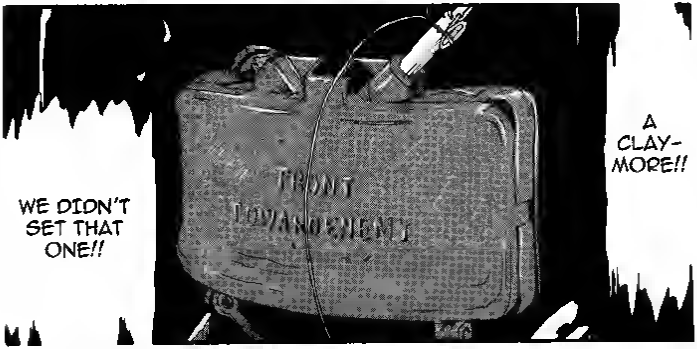

TAP

POF
BRR
BRR
BRR

HAA
I DID IT

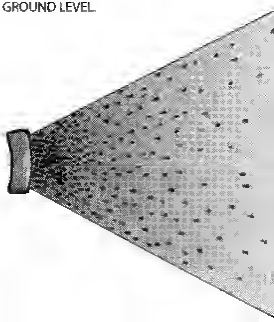

WITH THIS MINEFIELD, POL POT'S ARMY WON'T FOLLOW US
YEAH!
WE'RE SAFE!
PHEW!



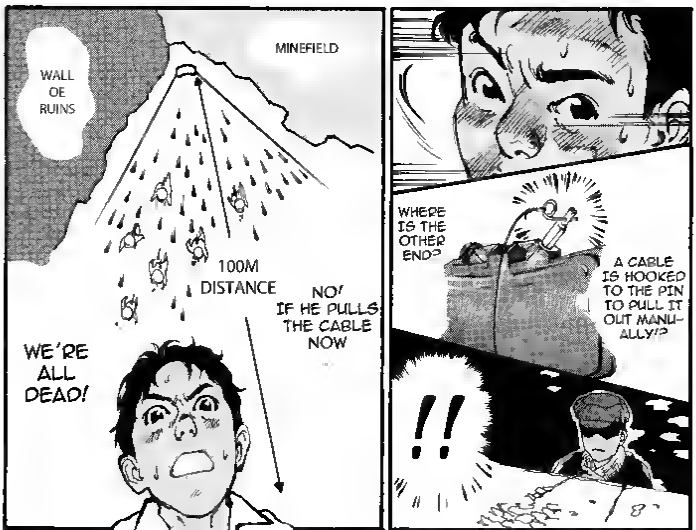


M18A1 CLAYMORE, DIRECTIONAL FRAGMENTATION ANTIPERSONNEL MINE, MADE IN THE U.S.A. UNLIKE THE MON-50, IT'S NOT BURIED BUT SET AT GROUND LEVEL.

WHEN IT EXPLODES, IT PROJECTS IN A FAN-LIKE FASHION A BLAST OF 700 METALLIC MARBLES THAT CAN BE FATAL UP TO 100 METERS



AAH!


MINEFIELD
WALL OF RUINS
100M DISTANCE
NO! IF HE PULLS THE CABLE NOW
WE'RE ALL DEAD!
WHERE IS THE OTHER END?
A CABLE IS HOOKED TO THE PIN TO PULL IT OUT MANUALLY!?
!!

ZAH
IF THE PIN IS PULLED IT'S ALL OVER !!
TAC
DNN
TCHAC
!?
CWIP
CWIP
SHAP

DA
M
FRONT
TOWARD ENMY
TIC
I DID IT!
GOOD!
BUT ..
GNN
AKI RA!

AKI RA'S CHRONOLOGY

CAMBODIA	YEAR	AKI RA
King Sihanouk declares independance from France	**1953**	
The United States at war with Vietnam, bomb Cambodia from the air	**1969**	
General Lon Nol s coup d *état* Exile of King Sihanouk START OF THE CIVIL WAR	**1970**	
Sihanonk visits the zone dominated by Pol Pot	**1973**	Presumed year of Aki Ra s birth
Pol Pot s army takes over the capital Phnom Penh BEGINNING OF POL POT S REGIME	**1975**	Joins a children s group
	1978	
The Vietnamese army takes over Phnom Penh Pol Pot s army retreats near the Thai border	**1979**	5yrs old : Pol Pot's army kills his parents
Sihanouk, Son San and Pol Pot's parties unite against Vietnam	**1982**	
THE CIVIL WAR IS PUT ON HOLD	**1983**	10yrs old : Receives his first rifle in Pol Pot s army (see chapter 1) : Trained to set mines
The Vietnamese army reaches Siem Reap	**1986**	13yrs old : Prisoner of the Vietnamese army : Fights against Pol Pot's army (see chapter 3)
Departure of the Vietnamese army. Sihanouk and Hun Sen parties unite against Pol Pot s army	**1989**	16yrs old : Now a soldier in the Cambodian army : fights against Pol Pot's army : Learns to read in a school
Signing of the Paris Peace Treaty Sihanonk goes back to his country	**1991**	
Arrival of the Provisional Authorities of the United Nations in Cambodia (PAUNC)	**1992**	: 20yrs old : Starts clearing mine with the help of the PAUNC : Learns English and works as a translator
Pol Pot s party is declared illegal Legislative elections are being organized THE CIVIL WAR STARTS AGAIN	**1993**	
Small coup *d'état* in Phnom Penh PAUNC s departure.	**1997**	: 24yrs old : Keeps clearing mines on his own
Pol Pot dies from illness : End of the civil war Start of legislative elections	**1998**	25yrs old : becomes touristic guide
	1999	: 26yrs old : opens the Mine Museum
	2000	27yrs old : Marries Wat
	2002	29yrs old : first son is born : Amata
START OF THE RED KHMERS TRIAL	**2004**	: 31yrs old : second son is born : Min
	2005	32yrs old : representation of a theatre play about the civil war
	2006	: 33yrs old : first trip to Japan

Extract from the Akira and children s mine museum published by Sanseido editions

MITSURIN SHOONEN

AND HERE WE ARE, CHAPTER 4 IS FINALLY OVER. DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY, HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS CHAPTER THOUGH ^_^

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